

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board**  
**Thursday, July 18, 2002, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Virginia Department of Forestry, Charlottesville, Virginia**

**Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Members Present**

Charles E. Horn, Chairman	Joseph H. Maroon
A. Dewey Bond	M. Denise Doetzer
Herbert L. Dunford	W. P. Johnson
Granville M. Maitland	David L. Moyer
Roy Seward (for J. Carlton Courter)	Steve Umberger (for David Barrett)

**Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Members Not Present**

Robert M. Hall	Lorenza Lyons
Kriton Hatzios	

**Staff Present**

Leon E. App, DCR	William G. Browning, DCR
Michael R. Fletcher, DCR	Jack E. Frye, DCR
Larry Gavan, DCR	Jon Phillippe, DCR
Stuart Wilson, DCR	

**Others Present**

Louise Finger, Virginia Department of Forestry  
Brad Hammer, Chesterfield County  
Linda McAllister, James River SWCD  
Richard Nunnally, Chesterfield County

**Call to Order**

Chairman Horn called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

**Minutes of the May 16, 2002 Meeting**

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that the minutes of the May 16, 2002 meeting of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board be approved as submitted.

SECOND: Mr. Moyer

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seward noted that Mr. Courter's name was not included in the attendance list.

Mr. Bond noted that his affirmative vote was not recorded on the motion regarding Financial Assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Mr. Dunford acknowledged these corrections as part of his motion.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### **Lake Martin Update**

Mr. Wilson presented an update regarding the Lake Martin issue. Settlement discussions between the County, EPA and the developers have been unsuccessful. The County's lawsuit trial is now scheduled for February 3, 2003. Fairfax County has indicated that they do not wish to discuss the matter in public forum until the lawsuit is resolved. The County submitted a letter report dated July 9, 2002 to Joseph Maroon for the Board's information. He noted that the EPA has indicated that they would likely defer a final resolution of their administrative order until the county's court case is settled.

Mr. Wilson provided a suggested motion for Board consideration.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board receive the update of activities from DCR staff and the letter report from Fairfax County outlining the status of the County's lawsuit against the major developer. Further, the Board requests that the County continue its efforts to expedite resolution to facilitate remediation of the Lake Martin watershed; and, the Board requests DCR staff to continue communication with EPA relative to EPA's administrative order and to re-affirm to EPA the Board's interests in an expedited resolution of this matter.

He further moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board direct Fairfax County to continue to propose updates to the Board relative to the resolution of the lawsuit and proposed plans and schedule for commencement of restoration actions and in restoration, and that the County should insure that affected homeowners are provided input into the process of determining final restoration plans. These updates shall continue until restoration actions have been completed.

SECOND: Mr. Maitland

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Officers**

MOTION: Mr. Johnson moved that the election of Officers be tabled until the Governor makes appointments to fill the expired terms of Mr. Horn and Mr. Hall and the at-large position held by Mr. Dunford.

SECOND: Mr. Dunford.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dunford clarified that, if appointments are not made by September, elections will again be postponed.

Mr. Horn noted that the motion says until the appointments are made.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Local Urban Programs Update**

Mr. Gavan presented an update of local programs. Scott County has submitted an alternative inspection program for consideration. Mr. Gavan distributed copies of the draft plan (Copy Attached as Attachment #1). Scott County's Erosion and Sediment Control Program is fully administered by the Natural Tunnel Soil and Water Conservation District.

MOTION: Mr. Bond moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board accept Scott County's proposed Alternative Inspection Program for consideration.

SECOND: Mr. Moyer

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavan directed member's attention to Rockingham County's proposed Alternative Inspection Program. This program was submitted to the Board in 2001 at which time the Board approved the plan on a conditional basis, with review after twelve months. DCR staff recommended final approval of the program.

MOTION: Mr. Bond moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board approve Rockingham County's proposed Alternative Inspection Program.

SECOND: Mr. Johnson

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavan said that DCR staff prioritize programs annually to determine which are the best to visit. Twenty-two programs have been fully reviewed. He noted that none of the 22 programs have received a consistent rating, but that 20 have signed a corrective action plan.

Mr. Gavan noted that for future meetings, staff will prepare fact sheets so that members may know the progress status with each plan.

#### **Erosion and Sediment Control Training and Certification Program Update**

Mr. Gavan explained that Mr. John Stockton, the Town Administrator for South Hill had written the department concerning his certification. Mr. Stockton was notified by watershed staff that his certification had expired. However, Mr. Stockton provided correspondence from 2000 requesting information on renewing his certification. He apparently did not receive a response to that letter.

Mr. Gavan said that DCR's intent was to rectify the situation and re-issue Mr. Stockton's certification.

Mr. Maroon noted that this effort was consistent with Governor Warner's desire to make government more friendly to the citizens. This is an issue that DCR can handle administratively, but staff wanted to make the Board aware of these actions.

Mr. Gavan noted that staff is reviewing the training certification program and evaluating the times and locations for certification testing.

#### **District Director Resignations and Appointments**

Mr. Browning presented the following list of District Director resignations and appointments:

*Culpeper*

Resignation of Norman C. Schwartz, Greene County, effective 12/15/01, elected director position (term of office expires 1/1/04).

Recommendation of Donald Thurnau, Greene County, to fill unexpired elected term of Norman C. Schwartz (term of office to begin on or before 8/17/02 – 1/1/04).

*James River*

Resignation of Richard Nunnally, Chesterfield County, effective 7/1/02, appointed Extension Agent director position (term of office expires 1/1/05).

Recommendation of Glenn Chappell, Prince George County, to fill unexpired Extension Agent term of Richard Nunnally (term of office to begin on or before 8/17/02 – 1/1/05).

*Lake Country*

Resignation of S. Joe Fariss, Mecklenburg County, effective 7/1/02, appointed Extension Agent director position (term of office expires 1/1/03).

Recommendation of Taylor Clarke, Brunswick County, to fill unexpired Extension Agent term of S. Joe Fariss (term of office to begin on or before 8/17/02 – 1/1/05).

*Prince William*

Resignation of Melvin D. Bellinger, Prince William County, effective 5/1/02, appointed director position (term of office expires 1/1/04).

Recommendation of Ronald K. Burgess, Prince William County, to fill unexpired appointed term of Melvin D. Bellinger (term of office to begin on or before 8/17/02 – 1/1/07).

MOTION: Mr. Bond moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board approve the resignation and appointment actions as presented by DCR staff and that staff be directed to communicate the Board actions to the affected Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

SECOND: Mr. Dunford

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Umberger noted that he and Mr. Browning have been in conversation with the assistant attorney general regarding the possibility of retired Extension Agents serving in a volunteer capacity to represent the Extension Agent position on District Boards.

A written response is expected in the next few days.

### **Chesterfield County Petition to Create a New Soil and Water Conservation District**

Chairman Horn recognized Mr. Hammer and Mr. Nunnally as representatives of Chesterfield County.

Mr. Hammer noted that he is the Deputy County Administrator for Chesterfield County. Mr. Nunnally has recently retired as County Extension Agent.

Mr. Hammer noted that Chesterfield County will be the largest growing locality in the Richmond area for the next ten years and that the county will have a large amount of land disturbance and growth during that time.

He said that Chesterfield County believes they can be a model district. Office space has already been identified.

Mr. Hammer noted that Chesterfield is one of the few localities in the state totally surrounded by water. He also said that Swift Creek reservoir is a huge water resource.

Mr. Browning noted that what was previously submitted was the petition to create a new district and a letter to the chairman. The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed this petition and found that it meets the code requirement. He noted that the first action the Board needs to consider is approval or rejection of the petition.

Mr. Maroon noted that the Board would be accepting the petition as valid. After that point public hearings must be scheduled (but not occur) within 60 days.

Mr. Browning noted that if the Board denies the petition, the locality can return within six months with another request.

Ms. Linda McAllister, District Administrator for the James River Soil and Water Conservation District noted that the District is generally supportive of Chesterfield County's but not if the action penalizes either locality in terms of funding. She said the District is supportive only if the funding structure remains the same.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board approve the content and form of the petition submitted by

the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors to create a new Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District within the boundaries of Chesterfield County which realigns the existing James River Soil and Water Conservation District as set forth in § 10.1-508 of the *Code of Virginia* as amended.

SECOND: Mr. Maitland.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bond questioned why the Board would choose to go ahead with the hearing when the consensus would appear to be that the Board does not wish to create another new district.

Mr. Maitland noted that if the petition is denied without the hearing, the county could return within 60 days.

Mr. Maroon noted that approval of this motion would only give Chesterfield County the opportunity for the public to express to the Board their support for or opposition to the creation of a new district.

Mr. Maitland said that, while he had reservations, he thought it best to proceed.

Mr. Moyer said that his initial feeling was to deal with the issue and to move on. He noted that by allowing the hearings the Board will be able to come back with clearer direction. He said he would like to see the Board appoint a committee to look at the issues that would provide incentives for districts not to divide.

Mr. Johnson noted that the funding will be a critical issue.

Mr. Dunford stated that he understood the concerns, but felt that the best route was to go through with the hearing process.

VOTE: Aye: Dunford, Horn, Johnson, Maitland, Maroon, Moyer, Seward, Umberger

No: Bond

Motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board direct DCR staff to fulfill provisions of § 10.1-510 of the *Code of Virginia* pertaining to providing due notice of the approval of the petition and the planned conduct of public hearings.

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SECOND: Mr. Seward.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Horn noted that it would be necessary to appoint a hearing officer.

MOTION: Mr. Moyer moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board appoint Mr. Herb Dunford to act as the Board's hearing officer at the required hearings.

SECOND: Mr. Bond.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

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**Realignment/Creation of SWCDs – letters from Culpeper, Piedmont & Robert E. Lee Districts**

Mr. Browning referenced three letters from Districts concerning the creation of a new Soil and Water Conservation District. These letters were provided to Board members for consideration in assessing the request to form a new district.

Mr. Horn noted that he had received a letter from the Holston River District. Mr. Browning requested that staff be provided a copy of the letter.

**Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District**

Mr. Browning referred members to a letter from the Lake Barcroft Watershed Management District. The Lake Barcroft WID was requesting Board approval of their FY03 Budget. This budget has been approved by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Bond noted that the District had noted concern among the Lake Barcroft residents that the bond has been paid off, yet the budget remains at the same level. Lake Barcroft officials note that the dam is 30 years old and they wish to hold funds in reserve in anticipation of future needed repairs.

MOTION: Mr. Bond moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, upon review of the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District (WID) FY 2003 Budget an in accordance with state law (§ 10.1-630 of the *Code of Virginia*), the Board approve the FY 2003 Budget in the amount of \$616,495.00 and instruct the Board Secretary to notify the Lake Barcroft WID.

SECOND: Mr. Seward.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Overview of Financial Assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts for Fiscal Year 2002-2003**

Mr. Browning noted that the statute requires that any unexpended amounts be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The carry forward for the Fiscal Year 2001-02 was \$44,683.

Mr. Browning noted that the carryover amount has not received final approval.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that in accordance with the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Policy on “Financial Assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Districts,” the Board approve \$10,000 to support the 2003 Envirothon Program and that DCR staff be directed to disburse the funds to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

SECOND: Mr. Maitland

DISCUSSION: Mr. Maroon noted the possibility of further spending reductions. He suggested that perhaps the motion be amended to read contingent upon available funding.

Consensus was to hold off on a decision until September when the state’s budget situation will become clearer.

Mr. Dunford withdrew the motion.

Mr. Browning referenced a second suggested action for funding in support of training and capacity building initiatives for District Directors.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that the issues of funding for the Envirothon and the funding of training for District Directors be tabled until the September meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Moyer

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**Dam Safety Certificates and Permits**

INV. NO.	NAME	CITY/COUNTY
<i>Dam Safety Alteration Permit</i>		
17905	Embrey Dam (removal)	STAFFORD
<i>Dam Safety Construction Permit</i>		
19516	Big Cherry RCC Dam	WISE
63001	Embrey DMSA Dam	FREDERICKSBURG

***Dam Safety Operation & Maintenance Certificates***

**Class I Regular**

00352	Mink Creek Dam	ALBEMARLE
07903	Greene Acres Dam	GREENE
15306	Lake Jackson Dam	PRINCE WILLIAM

**Class I Conditional**

None

**Class II Regular**

09510	Lake Matoaca Dam (under 25' - W&M)	JAMES CITY
10727	Ashburn Village Lake #1 Dam	LOUDOUN
10734	Ashburn Village Lake #2 Dam (under 25')	LOUDOUN

**Class II Conditional**

None

**Class III Regular**

02903	Willis River Dam #3	BUCKINGHAM
02904	Willis River Dam #4	BUCKINGHAM
02905	Willis River Dam #5E	BUCKINGHAM
02906	Willis River Dam #5F	BUCKINGHAM
02907	Willis River Dam #6	BUCKINGHAM
02908	Willis River Dam #6A	BUCKINGHAM
02910	Willis River Dam #9	BUCKINGHAM
10735	Tippecanoe Lake Dam (under 25')	LOUDOUN

**Class III Conditional**

00379	Hillcrest Dam	ALBEMARLE
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***Extension to Sept 2002 Board Meeting***

01906 (2C)	Springhill Lake Dam	BEDFORD
03108 (2R)	Wildwood Dam	CAMPBELL
04706 (1R)	Mountain Run Dam #18 (Catalpa)	CULPEPER
08542 (3R)	Hartford Lake Dam	HANOVER
08902 (2C)	Leatherwood Creek Dam #5	HENRY
08904 (2C)	Leatherwood Creek Dam #3	HENRY
08907 (2C)	Leatherwood Creek Dam #6	HENRY
08908 (1C)	Marrowbone Creek Dam #1	HENRY
10709 (2R)	Daley Dam (Lake Marion)	LOUDOUN
14739 (3R)	Bush River Dam #5	PRINCE EDWARD
14740 (3R)	Bush River Dam #6	PRINCE EDWARD
16104 (1R)	Spring Hollow Reservoir Dam	ROANOKE CO.

***Extension to Dec 2002 Board Meeting***

00347 (3R)	Chisholm Dam	ALBEMARLE
01102 (3R)	East Fork Falling River #7 (Gala Lake)	APPOMATTOX
01103 (3R)	East Fork Falling River #15 (Caldwell L.)	APPOMATTOX
01104 (3R)	East Fork Falling River # 21	APPOMATTOX
01911 (3R)	Evergreen Lake Dam	BEDFORD
03101 (3R)	Little Falling River Dam #1	CAMPBELL
03103 (3R)	Little Falling River Dam #2	CAMPBELL
03104 (3R)	Little Falling River Dam #3	CAMPBELL
06707 (3R)	Melody Lake Dam	FRANKLIN
08910 (2C)	Lanier Dam	HENRY

***Out of Compliance***

07915

Greene Mountain Lake (Class 2 Cond.)

GREENE

Mr. Maroon noted that the Embrey Dam has been an ongoing issue for about 15 years. He noted that migratory fish are blocked from going up the Rappahannock River. The Army Corps of Engineers is prepared to move forward with the removal of the dam.

Mr. Phillippe noted that the option of fixing the dam was considered. However the dam is seriously deteriorated and the fish ladder is inadequate. The final assessment was that the best option was to remove the dam.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board accept the list of Dam Safety certificates and permits as submitted.

SECOND: Mr. Johnson.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**General Obligation Bond Update**

Mr. Maroon presented members with information concerning the [General Obligation Bond](#). (Copy attached as Attachment #2)

He noted that on November 5, Virginia voters will be asked to approve a \$119,000,000 Parks and Natural Areas Bond and a \$900,000,000 higher education bond. In Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads voters will vote on transportation sales tax referenda.

Mr. Maroon encouraged members to get out the word regarding the referendum.

Mr. Frye noted that DCR's Conservation District Coordinators have received information packets and will be asking to speak informationally at the next cycle of District Board meetings.

**Agency Reports**

*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Ms. Doetzer presented the following report:

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** – The initial allocation of 2.4 million in EQIP funding for FY-2002 has been received. The ranking process had to be modified to reflect changes from the new Farm Bill. Funding has been distributed to these areas. Priority concern applications for animal waste (15 received, 7 approved), grazing (220 received, 15 approved), and cropland (6 received, 6 approved). Water quality issues have been ranked, field offices have been notified and plans and contracts are being developed. Anticipate an additional 2.5+ million in new Farm Bill appropriations. Should be available in the next several weeks. Additional allocation will be divided among the statewide animal waste and grazing concerns to address waiting list (4-5 million dollars).
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** – Initial allocation of \$250,000 of new Farm Bill funding has been received. Continuous sign up is currently underway. The first 30-day review period approved approximately \$100,000 of these funds. The second review period ended on July 12. These applications will be reviewed and approved on July 18, 2002. Landowners and field offices will be immediately notified to begin planning and preparing contracts. Expected to have all funding allocated by August 15 with the possibility of receiving additional funds from other states before the end of the fiscal year.
- **Farmland Protection Program (FPP)** – A National Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued for applications from eligible entities. Currently 5 localities, several state agencies, and a number of private non-profit groups and foundations involved in purchasing of farmland easements are eligible to participate. We anticipate approximately 1 million in the FPP. RFP closed on July 15. A subcommittee of the State Technical committee will evaluate and rank on August 2, a MOA to be signed with successful applicants by September 31, 2002.
  - **Third Party Vendors (TPV)** – Rules and Regulations are being developed. This program is to be in operation by October 1, 2002.
  - **Southeast Farm Bill Rollout** – We expect to attend, along with some producers and conservation partners, a Farm Bill rollout training session in mid-October. We will get the rollout information to you as soon as possible. Hopefully some members of the Board can also attend.
- **Small Watershed (PL-566 and 534) Update** – In the last two months, field staff has committed \$300,000+ for land treatment contracts in 5 separate watersheds. Additional funds have been requested for additional pending contracts with landusers to install BMPs.
- **Soil Survey** – John David Harper has accepted the position of Soil Survey Party Leader in Fairfax, VA reporting on August 11, 2002. He will be working with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to update an existing survey, but also to complete mapping in one section of the county yet to be mapped.
- **Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program** – A vacancy announcement for a RC&D Coordinator position in Prince George County is currently in process with the Office of Personnel Management and our

national headquarters. The position will serve the South Center Corridors RC&D area south of Richmond.

*Virginia Department of Forestry*

Louise Finger presented the following report:

- The forest fire situation in Virginia remains at a critical level. Since January 1, 2002, there have been around 1,300 fires covering nearly 11,000 acres. This is way above normal. As of last week, 50 people were committed to fires in Rockingham, Rockbridge and Colorado. Without significant rains this summer, the fall fire season could be the worst in many years.
- In a similar vein, costs for fire suppression have been great. Without an emergency appropriation from Congress, the Forest Services is threatening to pull all un-obligated money in FY 2003. This would be devastating to our programs and technical service delivery. All programs would be affected in some way.
- The first meeting to determine the new Riparian Buffer goal was held in Charlottesville on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Invitees were limited to government partners and close stakeholders. Fran Flannigan, former director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, facilitated the session. A solid base of information was collected on how the new goal may be determined and what programmatic elements need to be included to ensure success. Several regional meetings are scheduled for fall, 2002, which will include landowners. The recommendation for the new goal is due to the Principal Staff Committee next summer in preparation for the 2003 Executive Council Meeting.
- A rain garden workshop will be held at the Department of Forestry in Charlottesville on August 21 and 23. The Garden Clubs of Virginia are the host. Forestry and DCR will train garden club members on rain garden installation. One will be installed at the Department of Forestry in Charlottesville on the second day.
- A riparian celebration will be held at Jim Mohler's residence on July 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. This celebration is for all the CREP riparian work done in the Mossy Creek area of Augusta County. Our last count is 9 landowners in close proximity have planted buffers. This event will also target new landowners in the area. Over 100 invitations have been sent including legislators.

*Virginia Cooperative Extension Service*

Dr. Steve Umberger gave the following report:

Because 85% of the VCES budget is for personnel, Cooperative Extension lost a total of 68 extension agents and 18 specialists on campuses. Twenty-seven extension agents

were in natural resources. That list includes Randy Shank, the Non-point Source Education Coordinator based at DCR.

The program was an alternative severance option on early retirement. Cooperative Extension will not be able to hire any new agents or specialist for at least two years.

A replacement for Randy Shank has been hired and will be based in Northern Virginia.

Extension agents are currently focusing most of their attention on the drought situation.

*Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

Roy Seward gave the following report.

On Wednesday, July 17, Governor Warner held a special conference with state meteorologists. He encouraged them to remind citizens of the drought in each of their broadcasts.

It has not been the policy of the Commonwealth to impose mandatory water rationing, but voluntary rationing is being strongly encouraged.

The Governor's summary included a number of issues including agriculture, hydrology, water supplies, forestry and recreation. Terry Wagner of the Department of Environmental Quality chairs the drought monitoring task force. Mr. Seward has suggested that DCR should be represented on the task force.

The Asian flu outbreak has affected 197 Virginia farms. More than 100 million birds have been lost.

The Governor has written the Secretary of Agriculture to request funding to help offset the losses. Senator Allen and other members are supporting this.

*Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*

Mr. Maroon said that DCR has initiated a planning process relating to major program in the agency. An agency-wide kickoff was held on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Several cross functional teams have been established.

The Annual Virginia Watershed Management Conference will be held on September 25-27, 2002 at the Hotel Roanoke.

Mr. Frye presented the following report:

- **DCR/SWCD Grant Agreements for FY03** – DCR has received most grant agreements back from districts and is processing the first quarter payments.

- **SWCD Audit Services** – DCR has entered into a contract with Farmer, Robinson and Cox for performance of SWCD audits for the upcoming audit cycle. This auditor has past experience in performing district audits.
- **CREP** – The FSA state office has asked the USDA Conservation and Environmental Programs Division (CEPD) about initiating an amendment to the existing CREP agreements to extend Virginia’s enrollment deadline (currently December 31, 2002) based upon the reauthorization of CRP in the new farm bill. CEPD replied that they would like to develop national language applicable to all existing state CREP agreements. DCR is preparing a formal request for program extension in order to be in a positive situation if national guidance is delayed.
- **SWCD 4 Year Program and Resource Plan** – One of the outcomes of the Virginia Conservation Leadership Project of the early 1990s was a strategic planning process every SWCD has followed for over a decade. In some instances districts have experienced 2 or 3 strategic planning processes, each with plans lasting 3 or more years. Now representatives from farm conservation partner organizations, with the guidance of professional planner and facilitator July Burtner, are developing a new approach to longer term planning. The new approach captures many of the successful aspects of strategic planning processes, but places greater emphasis on examining and refining the effectiveness of existing programs each district delivers. Additionally, the new planning approach gives significant attention to supporting those programs with resources – people and money. A guidebook is under development for district use as each district transitions towards newer planning approaches. Many partner agency staff that have served as facilitators for the strategic planning process will be provided an opportunity to continue service to districts in different capacities as moderators of focus group discussions in the future. It is expected that the new approach to planning will be tested through several pilot districts this fall. Ultimately it is hoped districts will carry out planning activities that are linked to the 4 year election cycle of district directors.
- **SWCD Owned Dams** – DCR has not received approval from the Department of Planning and Budget to release to districts the \$50,000 in funding for the maintenance of district owned dams. As districts are currently providing dam annual maintenance, we hope to have approval soon. Payments will be forwarded to SWCDs as soon as approval is received.

Mr. App noted that an Executive Order regarding Regulatory Review is anticipated from the Governor’s Office.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Jim Byrne spoke on behalf of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He thanked members for their anticipated support of the Enviothon.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will be Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Staff will check on the availability of the space at the Department of Forestry. Otherwise the meeting will be held in Richmond.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Charles E. Horn  
Chairman

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Joseph H. Maroon  
Recording Secretary